

USACE LEGAL SERVICES WORKSHOP "THE CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM" DECISION DOCUMENTS

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Decision Documents

Civil Works projects considered for implementation must have an approved Decision Document prior to submittal of the Project Cooperation Agreement to HQUSACE policy review and approval. The PCA must be based on the decisions documented in the Decision Document

Definitions:

Definition of Decision Document: Two definitions offered...

(1) A Decision Document is a document, typically a report, that is used as the basis of a decision to commit resources.

Definitions:

2) A Decision Document is a report with National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, prepared for the purpose of: obtaining authorization or reauthorization, obtaining the commitment of Federal funds for project implementation (i.e. budgeting), obtaining approval to spend funds appropriated by Congress, or received from other agencies or entities.

Examples of Decision Documents:

Reconnaissance Reports

Feasibility Reports

General Design Memorandums

General Reevaluation Report

Post Auth. Change Reports

Detailed Project Reports

Decision Documents

Major Rehabilitation Report

Section 202 Reports

Dam Safety Reports

Design Deficiency Reports

Dredged Material Mgmt. Reports

Sect 1135 and Sect 206 Reports

Special Reports

Category I Projects - Corps Study Process

- “Normal” Civil Works program that follows the two phased study process
- Recommendation to Congress for project authorization
- Consistent with Administration’s policies and priorities
- Supported in the Civil Works Budget process

Category II Projects - Congressionally Directed

- Congressionally authorized projects
- With or without the benefit of a Corps report
- Congressionally directed and funded
- May or may not be support by the Administration in the budget process

Corps Study Process- Two Phased Study Process

- Reconnaissance Study
- Feasibility Study

Reconnaissance Phase

- The "expedited reconnaissance study", \$100,000, 12 months, 100% Federal funding
- The objective of reconnaissance studies is to enable the Corps to determine whether or not planning to develop a project should proceed to the more detailed feasibility stage.

Feasibility Phase

- Average cost \$1-3 million, average duration 36 months, cost shared 50/50 with a sponsor , 50% of sponsor share may be in in-kind services
- The objective of feasibility studies is to investigate and recommend solutions to water resources problems

Six Steps of the Planning Process

- Specify Problems and Opportunities
- Inventory and Forecast Conditions
- Formulate Alternative Plans
- Evaluate Effects of Alternative Plans
- Compare Alternative Plans
- Select Recommended Plan

Preferred Decision Document Process

- The two phase planning process, recon and feasibility, leading to a recommendation for authorization by Congress of a water resources plan of improvement.
- Implementation by the Corps through our normal budget process.

HQUSACE Planning Home Page

<http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwp.htm>

Included on the website is information on or reference to:

- General Planning Guidance
- The Corps Planning Process
- Major Steps in Developing Water Resource Projects
- Principles and Guidelines
- The Project Study Plan (PSP)

HQUSACE Planning Home Page

<http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwp.htm>

Website information con't:

- Project Sponsorship Kit
- PGL 99-10, Shortening the Planning Process
- Planning Guidance Notebook
- Planning Guidance Letters
- Policy Homepage - with ER's and EC's

Planning Homepage - Contains Examples of:

- Reconnaissance Guidance Memorandum
- Project Guidance Memorandum
- Expedited Reconnaissance Study

Other Decision Documents

- General Reevaluation Reports - Changed conditions, a GRR is to affirm, reformulate or modify the authorized plan
- Design Memorandum - Used where the feasibility report did not contain sufficient engineering detail

Other Decision Documents

- General Design Memorandum - Planning analyses, economic, environmental, plan formulation - conducted during preconstruction design studies
- Post Authorization Change Report - usually prepared when the Section 902 project limit has been exceeded

Process Goal

Resolve issues and policy concerns as they arise during the study rather than identifying and resolving issues after decisions are made at the field level and the report is prepared.

Congressionally Directed Decision Documents

- Project Authorized by Congress (with or without a Corps report)
- Congressional funding
 - Two phased Corps study process
 - Directs implementation of a specific plan
- Video Teleconference Guidance - Implementation Guidance

All Decision Documents Must Contain the Following:

- Fully describe the scope of the project, including its OMRR&R, betterments, mitigation, locally preferred plan, etc.
- Provide a current economic analysis
- Describe changes from the last approved document and rationale for the changes

All Decision Documents Must Contain the Following:

- Fully describe allocation and apportionment of project costs (project costs in first costs)
- Include a NEPA document - with certification of compliance with applicable environmental laws and requirements
- Identify project items of local cooperation
- Provide evidence of sponsor support, with a financial capability analysis

VTC Guidance Issues:

To assure timely review and approval of Decision Documents, VTC implementation guidance issues should be elevated to HQ for clarification during the conduct of the Decision Document.

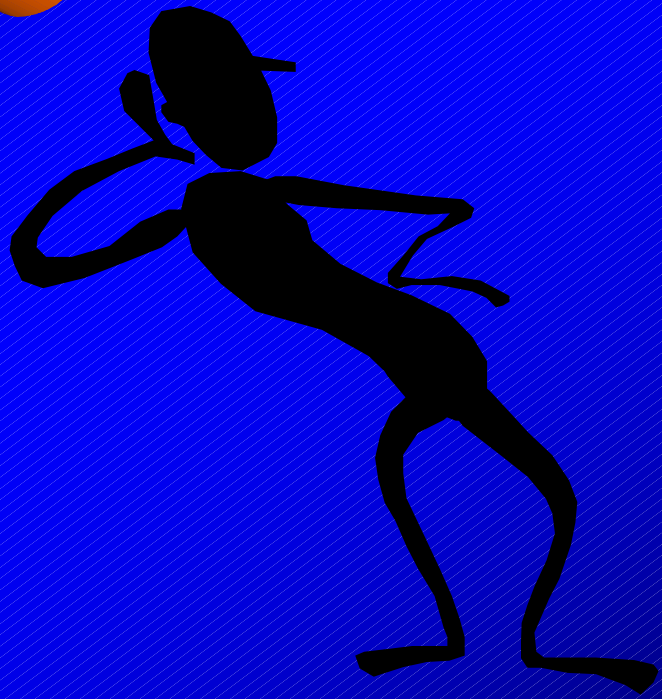
Washington Processing After Policy Review

- Chief's Report
- ASA(CW) role
- OMB review/Administration clearance

Decision Document Approval

- Submittal to Congress of Feasibility Report/Decision Document
- ASA(CW)/HQ approval of Decision Document
- Signing of the Record of Decision

Questions P P



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Civil Works Program

